

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, for which a response is due February 7, 2005 with a one month extension of time. In the Office Action, the examiner rejected claims 1 – 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-10, 19, 20, 44 – 52, 58, 61 – 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,580,318 issued to Taylor. In addition, claims 11 – 12, 25 – 33, 40 – 41, 53 – 54, 66 – 68 and 74 were rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Itani. Claims 16 – 18 and 59 – 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Ishimitsu et al. Finally, claims 37 – 39 and 72 – 73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Taylor and Itani in further view of Ishimitsu.

In response, claims 1 – 12, 16 – 20, 23 – 33, 37 – 41, 45 – 54, 58 – 62, 65 – 68 and 72 – 74 are being deleted, while claims 13 – 15, 21 – 22, 34 – 36, 42 – 43, 55 – 57, 63 – 64, 69 – 71 and 75 – 76 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein are respectfully requested.

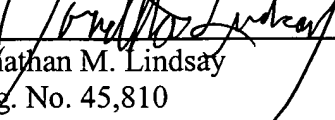
In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the examiner indicated that claims 13 – 15, 21 – 22, 34 – 36, 42 – 43 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the aforementioned Section 112 rejection and to include allow of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Moreover, in paragraph 11 of the Office Action the examiner also indicated that claims 55 – 57, 63 – 64, 69 – 71 and 75 – 76 would be allowable if rewritten to include allow of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended those claims identified in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Office action as indicated by the examiner and respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this Response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: February 7, 2005

By 
Jonathan M. Lindsay
Reg. No. 45,810
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

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